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image pickup means for receiving light to form an image of a subject, for converting the light into electric signals, and for producing image information of the image of the subject by the electric signals;

print information producing means for producing print information for printing the image information, the print information including print designating information, which designates an image to be printed, and print quantity information, which expresses a quantity of prints; and

transmitting means for transmitting the image information and the print information to an external apparatus.

See Sub C 3

13. (Amended) The camera of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving image information from another camera, wherein the transmitting means transmits the image information received from the another camera and the print information.

See Sub C 5

18. (Amended) The camera of claim 17, wherein the receiving means receives the receipt information, which includes a waiting time for the completion of printing and a receipt condition whether or not information transmitted from the transmitting means is received normally.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 24, 2001, the Examiner: objected to the title; objected claim 18 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form; rejected claims 1-3 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039); rejected claims 4-5 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039) in view of Saegusa (U.S. Pat.

No. 5,799,217); rejected claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039) in view of Friend et al. (Understanding Data Communications); and rejected claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039) in view of Kaihatsu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,898,386).

By this amendment, the Applicants cancel claims 14-16 and 22-27 and amend claims 1, 13, and 18. Claims 1-13 and 17-21 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. No new matter has been added.

The applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-identified Office Action.

OBJECTION TO THE TITLE

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention for being not descriptive. The Applicants amend the title to read "ELECTRIC CAMERA WITH IMAGE PRINTING SYSTEM". The Applicants believe that the title is clearly descriptive and indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected claim 18 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

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The basis of how the Examiner finds claim 18 improper dependent form is not clearly understood. 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) sets forth rules regarding claims in multiple dependent form. Claim 18, dependent only on claim 17, is not a multiple dependent claim nor fails to further limit the subject matter of claim 17 or claim 1. Claim 18 calls for the receipt information to include a waiting time for completion of printing and a receipt condition of transmitted information, which further limits the subject matter of previous claims 1 and 17. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039). The Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection. As will be explained below, the Applicants believe that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited prior art.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention as claimed would be helpful. Claim 1 relates to a camera having, among other things, means for producing print information for printing the image information and means for transmitting the image and the print information to an external apparatus, wherein the print information includes print designating information (i.e. designating a specific image to be printed) and print quantity information (i.e. expressing a quantity of prints). That is, the camera of the present invention can produce the print information including print designating information and print quantity

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information (i.e. information necessary for printing) and transmit the print information along with the image information to an external apparatus for a print.

Conventionally, where image information produced by an electric camera is recorded in a removable memory, the memory is brought to a print shop by the user and a troublesome ordering procedure is required for the user at the print shop to print the image. However, according to the present invention, such troublesome steps can be eliminated because a camera with the features of the present invention, as claimed, can directly produce and transmit an order information as well as the image information without using any other external apparatus, such as a personal computer.

Furthermore, where a user wants to place an order for a print without going to the print shop, the user can place the order by using the camera of the present invention without using a personal computer or the like since the camera itself is able to generate the print information and transmit the print information to an external apparatus for a print. This is a great advantage for a user who does not possess a personal computer.

Steinberg et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039) discloses a camera having behavioral parameters and graphics information that can be configured through external means. The cameral of Steinberg et al., designed to input and output data by means of either a port or a slot, allows downloading of a variety of camera configuration data from, and transmitting of image data along with required image textural graphic data to external means such as a PC or another camera via a cable, a card, or modulated radiated signals.

However, Steinberg et al. fails to disclose or suggest means for producing the print information, including print designation information to designate an image to be

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printed and print quantity information to express a quantity of prints to be made. Furthermore, Steinberg et al. does not disclose transmitting means for transmitting the image information and the print information to an external apparatus.

Therefore, the present invention, as claimed, is not anticipated by Steinberg et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 4-5 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039), in view of Saegusa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,799,217); rejected claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039) in view of Friend et al. (Understanding Data Communications); and rejected claims 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,039) in view of Kaihatsu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,898,386). The Applicants respectfully traverses the Examiner on this rejection.

As described above, Steinberg et al. fails to disclose or suggest means for producing the print information, including print designation information to designate an image to be printed and print quantity information to express a quantity of prints, and means for transmitting the image information and the print information to an external apparatus.

Similarly, neither Saegusa, Friend et al., nor Kaihatsu teaches or suggests the print information producing means and the transmitting means of the present invention. Therefore, claims 2-13 and 17-21 are considered allowable at least for their

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dependency on allowable claim 1. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of rejection on claims 13-17 and 19-21 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 19, 2001

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT

IN THE TITLE:

ELECTRIC CAMERA [AND PRINTER SYSTEM] WITH IMAGE PRINTING SYSTEM

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A camera[,] comprising:

image-pickup means for receiving light to form an image of a subject, for converting the light into electric signals, and for producing image information of the image of the subject by the electric signals;

print information producing means for producing print information for printing the image information, the print information including print designating information, which designates an image to be printed, and print quantity information, which expresses a quantity of prints; and

transmitting means for transmitting the image information and the print information to an external apparatus.

13. (Amended) The camera of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving image information from another camera, wherein the transmitting means transmits the image information received from the another camera and the print information.

18. (Amended) The camera of claim 17, wherein the receiving means receives the receipt information, which includes a waiting time for the completion of printing and a receipt condition whether or not information transmitted from the transmitting means is received normally.

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